

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 24

Week ending Friday, July 15, 2011

The SBAC Weekly Update is an email sent each Friday to keep Consortium members and collaborators informed of new developments and upcoming events. The Update is widely distributed to Consortium State Leads, Work Group members, Consortium and WestEd staff, and Consortium advisors, partners, and service providers.

State members should feel free to share information in the Update with those interested in the Consortium's work.

Embedded links in the Update sometimes direct you to the website, <http://smarter.k12partners.org/>, designed for use by Consortium members. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please click the "Create new account" link on the website to register. If you are not a state employee in a Consortium state and need material from this site, please ask your state lead to forward it to you.

Index

[From the Executive Director](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Archive](#)

From the Executive Director

Greetings. Well, it's been a busy, but productive, week. Plans have been finalized for next week's meeting in Denver with Governing States, Work Group Co-Chairs, and vendors to give a final look at the Master Work Plan. We've already sent out the revision—based on more than 1,100 comments—to folks in advance of the meeting, and look forward to our conversations next week.

We continue to make progress on an early draft of the Content Specifications document, and are close to releasing the schedule of reviews we will be supporting from the field. Our schedule calls for that project to conclude at the end of September, and we would like to try to get a couple of rounds of review as part of the process. So, the timelines will be tight, and we want to have those review schedules out soon.

On the procurement side, the Item Specifications RFP is in the final stages before being released. We think we have a high-quality request and want to give special thanks to recognize the months of hard work by our Item Development and Performance Tasks Work Groups.

Finally, through a much narrower lens, I'd like to share my recent experiences at the American Federation of Teachers' (AFT) TEACH conference in Washington, DC, and at the

Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) meeting of curriculum and assessment directors in Memphis. As you might imagine, both meetings focused on local, rather than state-level, questions and issues. There's not enough room to try to capture all my thoughts, but the most encouraging aspect of both meetings was the high level of engagement and enthusiasm from the teachers at AFT and the local administrators at CGCS. Both groups want to know as much as possible about the Common Core and the two assessment consortia. There are a lot of energized leaders out there who are ready and raring to go. I look forward to continuing our conversations on both fronts. JW

[Back to Index](#)

Announcements

Executive Committee Co-Chair nominations—We now have three nominees to fill the Executive Committee Co-Chair vacancy created when Tony Alpert became COO of the Consortium. You can find short biographies for the three nominees at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/election>. Governing State leads can cast votes through July 19. Please see the email sent earlier this week to Governing State leads regarding voting. (Each Governing State can cast one vote).

[Back to Index](#)

Upcoming Events

TAC meeting—The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee takes place July 26–27 in Denver.

All States dinner during ICCS SCASS—SMARTER Balanced invites all SBAC state participants attending the ICCS SCASS meeting to join leadership for dinner at 6 p.m. on August 3. Please RSVP for the dinner when you register for the meeting using the CCSSO registration process.

[Back to Index](#)

Resources

No new resources posted this week.

[Back to Index](#)

Archive

Weekly selections of news items relevant to the Consortium are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/news-archive>.

Previous SBAC Weekly Updates are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/sbac-weekly-update-archive>.

Minutes from previously held meetings are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/agendas-and-minutes>.

[Back to Index](#)

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium
WestEd—Project Management Partner
sbac@wested.org